

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MCGREGOR BROWN
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Ivan Howard's Interview
with Fidel Castro

Mr. Pierre Salinger in a memorandum to Mr. Eddie M. Martin of May 6, 1963 requested comments on a transcript of an ABC interview with Castro. A memorandum which provides comment on the ABC transcript is enclosed.

Howard H. Brown
WILLIAM H. BROOKS
Executive Secretary

1. Memorandum
2. Transcript

- a. The situation may deteriorate to forceable United States response.
- b. The Soviet troops are merely technicians - but would fight if given the chance.
- c. Relation between hard and flexible Communists remains unclear.
- d. Castro is unpredictable. He has contradictions in his policies. He probably wants to keep the United States off balance. But it would be difficult to do this.
- e. The United States has a right to self-defense.
- f. The situation in the United States considers the self-defense resolution.
- g. United States provides of elections, etc. because of changed conditions and state of war.
- h. Would reduce tensions and re-relationship with United States.
- i. Will not affect the rest of the Caribbean.

Comments:

- a. The United States should not be too hasty in its actions. It should strengthen its position and then take a firm stand. It should not be afraid to use its military power.
- b. The United States should not be too hasty in its actions. It should not be afraid to use its military power.
- c. The United States should not be too hasty in its actions. It should not be afraid to use its military power.
- d. The United States should not be too hasty in its actions. It should not be afraid to use its military power.
- e. The United States should not be too hasty in its actions. It should not be afraid to use its military power.
- f. The United States should not be too hasty in its actions. It should not be afraid to use its military power.
- g. The United States should not be too hasty in its actions. It should not be afraid to use its military power.
- h. The United States should not be too hasty in its actions. It should not be afraid to use its military power.
- i. The United States should not be too hasty in its actions. It should not be afraid to use its military power.

MEMORANDUM TO:

John F. Kennedy, March 1962
President
Secretary of State and Department
AIDS PLACEMENTS

I've just received this transcript of an ABC
interview with Castro. Would you please look
it over, give me your comments and return it
to me at your earliest convenience.

John F. Kennedy
President
Secretary
AIDS PLACEMENTS

SJ

TRANSCRIBED PAGES FOLLOW

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MCGEORGE BUNDY
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Lisa Howard's Interview
with Fidel Castro

Mr. Pierre Salinger in a memorandum to Mr. Edwin M. Martin of May 2, 1963 requested comments on a transcript of an ABC interview with Castro. A memorandum which provides comment on the ABC transcript is enclosed.

William H. Brubeck
Executive Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Memorandum
2. Transcript

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Lisa Howard's Interview with Fidel Castro

In Lisa Howard's interview with Castro, the following points come through:

- a. The missiles were introduced to forestall United States aggression.
- b. The Soviet troops were merely technicians - but would fight if Cuba is invaded.
- c. Schism between hard nosed Commies and Fidelistas has been reconciled.
- d. Castro is no puppet. He has complete self determination. No strings on Soviet aid.
- e. Denies exporting revolution. Says it can't be done.
- f. Blames turn to Communism on suspension of sugar quota.
- g. Receptive to a United States commission to talk about compensation.
- h. Abandoned earlier promises of elections, etc. because of changed conditions and state of war.
- i. Would welcome reductions of tensions and rapprochement with United States.
- j. Will not become the Tito of the Caribbean.

COMMENT:

1. Public airing in the United States of this interview would strengthen the arguments of "peace" groups, "liberal" thinkers, Commies, fellow travellers, and opportunistic political opponents of present United States policy.
2. It would provide Castro with a wide United States and international audience for his "reasonable" line. Question: Should we facilitate his propaganda efforts?
3. Other Latin American countries, particularly Brazil, Mexico, Bolivia and Uruguay, would say, in effect "Let's relax, there is no danger. Why should we continue to beat on Castro?"
4. Denial of ABC "rights" to report the news would raise the question of "managed" news.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington

May 2, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR

Hon. Edwin M. Martin
Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-
American Affairs

I've just received this transcript of an ABC
interview with Castro. Would you please look
it over, give me your comments and return it
to me at your earliest convenience?

Pierre Salinger
Press Secretary
to the President